

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 10 and 12.

Claims 1-2, 9, 11, and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kasamatsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,903,901). In response, Applicants amended independent claims 1-2 and 17 to clarify that the first and second areas of the slider body are designed to keep a positive pressure constant so as to keep a predetermined roll angle of the slider body when the head suspension is released from the ramp, and that the predetermined roll angle increases due to the larger positive pressure generated by the second area when the head suspension decreases load on the slider body.

As shown in FIG. 4 of the present invention, the second area generates a positive pressure larger than the positive pressure generated at the first area. This design of the head slider increases the roll angle of the slider body from the predetermined roll angle. Additionally, an imbalance of the positive pressure is established when the head suspension decreases a load acting on a slider body in a direction toward a recording medium by sliding along a ramp. The load decreases as the head suspension slides upward along the ramp. Thus, when the head suspension is released from the ramp, i.e., when the head suspension maintains the load acting on the slider body, the first and second areas of the present invention generate positive pressure so as to keep the predetermined roll angle of the slider body.

Kasamatsu discloses a head slider that includes first and second rear air bearing surfaces located in first and second areas, respectively, that are separated on the medium-opposed surface of the slider body by a centerline. The head element is imbedded in the first rear air bearing surface, which is designed to generate a positive pressure smaller than the positive pressure generated at the second rear air bearing surface. Accordingly, the first rear air bearing surface gets closest to the surface of the magnetic recording disk. However, the positive pressure generated by Kasamatsu is only related to the roll angle of the head slider after the head suspension has been released from the ramp. The positive pressure as taught by Kasamatsu is for maintaining the roll angle of the slider body during the flight of the slider body above the surface of the magnetic recording disk, and is not for maintaining a roll angle of the head slider when the head suspension contacts the ramp. Since claims 1-2 and 17 are now amended to clarify the features of the present invention at the time when the head suspension slides along the ramp, and when a load is acting on the slider body, which are different than those of Kasamatsu, withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 18-20 are added and further define the first and second areas as each having front and rear air bearing surfaces, and wherein one of the front air bearing surfaces is closer to a leading edge of the slider body than the other front air bearing surface. Support for this feature is shown in FIG. 4 and the related description in Applicants' Specification. Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of new claims 18-20 for the reasons recited above, and also based on the features recited in these claims.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

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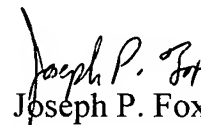
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Respectfully submitted,

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